

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BONN 07741 01 OF 02 041943Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-07
NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00
H-01 /060 W
-----042032Z 001134 /70

P 041930Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7985
INFO SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
SECARMY WASHDC PRIORITY
CINC USAREUR HEIDELBERG PRIORITY
CINC EUR VAIHINGEN PRIORITY
USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS PRIORITY
AMCONSUL BREMEN PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 07741

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (ALEXANDER, CLIFFORD L.), MPOL, NATO, AWACS,
GW

SUBJECT: VISIT OF SECRETARY OF THE ARMY ALEXANDER AND
THE NORTHAG CORNERSTONE-LAYING CEREMONY

BEGIN SUMMARY: DURING THE VISIT OF SECRETARY OF THE ARMY
ALEXANDER TO EUROPE, HE CALLED ON FEDERAL MINISTER OF
DEFENSE LEBER AND JOINED THE GERMAN MINISTER AT A CORNER-
STONE-LAYING CEREMONY FOR THE U.S. NORTHAG BRIGADE. BOTH
THE MEETING AND THE CEREMONY WERE USED AS AN OCCASION
TO REITERATE OUR TWO NATIONS' DETERMINATION TO STRENGTHEN
ALLIANCE DEFENSE. A THREATENED DEMONSTRATION AGAINST THE
NORTHAG BRIGADE LARGELY FIZZLED. END SUMMARY.

1. THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY'S CALL ON MINISTER LEBER
TOOK PLACE ON THE HARDTHOEHE (THE GERMAN PENTAGON) ON MAY
2. THE FEDERAL MINISTER OF DEFENSE WAS ACCOMPANIED,
AMONG OTHERS, BY STATE SECRETARY DR. SCHNELL AND THE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BONN 07741 01 OF 02 041943Z

INSPECTOR OF THE GERMAN ARMY GENERAL HILDEBRANDT.
SECRETARY ALEXANDER WAS ACCOMPANIED BY ASSISTANT SECRE-
TARY BLUMENTHAL, CINC USAREUR GENERAL BLANCHARD, AND
MINISTER CASH (IN THE ABSENCE OF THE AMBASSADOR). THE
SECRETARY BEGAN THE DISCUSSION WITH A STRONG STATEMENT
OF HIS DETERMINATION AND THE DETERMINATION OF DEFENSE
SECRETARY BROWN TO MAKE NATO STANDARDIZATION AND INTER-

OPERABILITY SUCCEED.

2. MINISTER LEBER AGREED, WHILE NOTING THAT THE PRINCIPLE OF STANDARDIZATION HAD LONG BEEN ACCEPTED. THE REAL DIFFICULTY, IN HIS VIEW, LIES IN SEIZING OPPORTUNITIES TO APPLY THE PRINCIPLE. IN THIS CONNECTION, MINISTER LEBER REFERRED TO THE US/FRG TANK HARMONIZATION PROGRAM. HE SAID THAT THERE WAS NO NEED FOR THE U.S. AND THE FRG TO HAVE ONE HUNDRED PERCENT THE SAME TANK. TO HAVE THE SAME COMPONENTS, HOWEVER, WAS NECESSARY. MINISTER LEBER WENT ON TO STATE THAT HE ALWAYS FOUND AGREEMENT ON THE TANK HARMONIZATION PROBLEM WHEN HE VISITED THE UNITED STATES, BUT WHEN HE RETURNED HOME THE MEDIA ACTED AS IF THE VERY OPPOSITE HAD OCCURRED. THE MEDIA ALSO PLAYED UP EXTREME POSITIONS: FOR EXAMPLE, THAT THE GERMAN TANK IS BETTER AND HENCE THE U.S. SHOULD BUY IT. THE GERMAN DEFENSE MINISTER WENT ON TO SAY THAT HE EXPECTED THE SAME THING ALSO OCCURRED IN THE U.S.

3. SECRETARY ALEXANDER STATED THAT HE WOULD HESITATE TO ATTEMPT TO DETERMINE THE SPECIAL INTERESTS DISPLAYED BY THE MEDIA. HE THEN WENT ON TO STATE HIS DETERMINATION TO PURSUE THE OBJECTIVE OF STANDARDIZATION AND INTEROPERABILITY. HE SAID HE HAD TWO GOALS: FIRST OF ALL, TO OBTAIN A BETTER FIGHTING FORCE; AND, SECONDLY, TO MAKE STANDARDIZATION A TWO-WAY STREET. THE ARMY SECRETARY WENT ON TO STATE THAT DESPITE PROBLEMS WITH THE CONGRESS, HE WOULD PURSUE THESE TWIN GOALS.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BONN 07741 01 OF 02 041943Z

4. MINISTER LEBER TEASED THE GERMAN AND AMERICAN ARMY GENERALS PRESENT BY IMPLYING THAT THEIR COMMITMENT TO AWACS WAS SOMETHING LESS THAN WHOLEHEARTED. THE AMERICAN REPRESENTATIVES MADE AN APPROPRIATE RESPONSE, INDICATING OUR OWN INTERESTS IN AWACS, AND MINISTER LEBER REITERATED THAT HE PERSONALLY WAS NOT AGAINST AWACS.

5. SECRETARY ALEXANDER, AMBASSADOR STOESSEL, ASSISTANT SECRETARY BLUMENTHAL, CINC USAREUR BLANCHARD, AND MANY OTHER U.S. OFFICIALS, BOTH CIVIL AND MILITARY, FLEW TO BREMEN THE FOLLOWING DAY (MAY 3) IN ORDER TO PARTICIPATE IN THE CORNERSTONE-LAYING CEREMONY FOR THE NEW U.S. BRIGADE TO BE STATIONED AT GARLSTEDT. MINISTER LEBER, WHO PERFORMED THE CEREMONY, WAS ACCOMPANIED BY STATE SECRETARY FINGERHUT, BOTH OF THE FRG'S FOUR-STAR GENERALS (WUST AND SCHULZE), GENERAL HILDEBRANDT, AND OTHER LEADING POLITICAL AND MILITARY FIGURES. SACEUR WAS REPRESENTED BY HIS DEPUTY, GENERAL SIR HARRY TUZO.

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BONN 07741 02 OF 02 041943Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-07
NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00
H-01 /060 W
-----042033Z 001136 /70

P 041930Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7986
INFO SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
SECARMY WASHDC PRIORITY
CINC USAREUR HEIDELBERG PRIORITY
CINC EUR VAIHINGEN PRIORITY
USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS PRIORITY
AMCONSUL BREMEN PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 07741

6. A THREATENED DEMONSTRATION FIZZLED DAMPLY. ONLY SOME FIFTY DEMONSTRATORS WERE OUTSIDE THE GARLSTEDT SITE AND THEY HAD DWINDLED TO PERHAPS HALF THAT NUMBER BY THE TIME THE CEREMONY WAS OVER. A FEW PLACARDS AND SHOUTS COMPRISED THE SUM TOTAL OF THE PROTEST ON THIS OCCASION. THIS IS A NOTABLE CHANGE FROM THE PERIOD SEVERAL MONTHS AGO WHEN THERE HAD BEEN A MUCH MORE WIDESPREAD PROTEST ON ENVIRONMENTAL GROUNDS AGAINST THE DECISION TO PUT THE AMERICAN BRIGADE AT GARLSTEDT. LEFTISTS OF MANY PERSUASIONS AND ANTI-MILITARISTS HAD ATTEMPTED WITH SOME SUCCESS TO INFILTRATE THE ENVIRONMENTALISTS' RANKS. AS TIME WENT ON, MEASURES TAKEN BY THE MILITARY TO PRESERVE THE ENVIRONMENT AND THE OBVIOUS SUPPORT WHICH THE GERMAN LAENDER AND THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAD GIVEN TO THE CHOICE OF GARLSTEDT LED THE ENVIRONMENTALISTS TO LOOK TO OTHER FIELDS OF ACTIVITY. THUS, TODAY EXTREME LEFTISTS

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BONN 07741 02 OF 02 041943Z

AND ANTI-MILITARISTS LARGELY COMPRISE THE PREVIOUSLY MORE FORMIDABLE OPPOSITION TO THE BRIGADE'S PRESENCE.

7. ONLY TWO SPEECHES WERE DELIVERED ON THE OCCASION OF THE CORNERSTONE LAYING: ONE BY MINISTER LEBER, AND THE OTHER BY GENERAL TUZO. BOTH HIT THE THEMES THAT THE ASSIGNMENT OF THE U.S. BRIGADE WAS AN INDICATION OF THE U.S. COMMITMENT TO NATO AND U.S. DETERMINATION TO MAINTAIN THE COMMON DEFENSE. BOTH SPEAKERS ALSO EMPHASIZED THAT THE PRESENCE OF THE U.S. BRIGADE SHOULD NOT BE USED AS AN EXCUSE FOR OTHER NATO ALLIES TO SLACKEN THEIR EFFORTS; RATHER, THE CONTRARY. THOSE REPRESENTATIVES OF BELGIAN AND DUTCH FORCES STATIONED IN THE FRG WHO HAD BEEN INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE CEREMONY PRESUMABLY GOT THE POINT. MINISTER LEBER EXPRESSED PRIDE THAT THE FRG HAD, IN HIS VIEW, ALREADY FOLLOWED THIS PRECEPT BY AGREEING TO PAY PART OF THE ONE-TIME STATIONING COSTS FOR THE BRIGADE. AS A ONE-TIME LEADER OF THE BRICKLAYERS UNION, THE MINISTER'S CORNERSTONE-LAYING WAS SUITABLY PROFESSIONAL.

8. COMMENT: IT WAS A HAPPY COINCIDENCE THAT SECRETARY ALEXANDER'S VISIT TO GERMANY COINCIDED WITH THE DATE SET FOR THE CORNERSTONE-LAYING CEREMONY. THE FACT THAT THE U.S. SECRETARY OF THE ARMY TOOK PART IN THE CEREMONY ENHANCED THE IMPORTANCE OF THE EVENT IN THE EYES OF OUR ALLIES TO A SIGNIFICANT DEGREE. OFFICIALS IN THE FEDERAL MINISTRY OF DEFENSE WENT OUT OF THEIR WAY TO EXPRESS GRATIFICATION AT SECRETARY ALEXANDER'S PARTICIPATION. END COMMENT.
STOESSEL

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AWACS, MILITARY PERSONNEL, AIR DEFENSE, REPRESENTATION AT CEREMONIES, MILITARY CEREMONIES, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, WARNING SYSTEMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 04-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BONN07741
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770156-1121
Format: TEL
From: BONN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770597/aaaadfse.tel
Line Count: 203
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 64bc309b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2649336
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VISIT OF SECRETARY OF THE ARMY ALEXANDER AND THE NORTHAG CORNERSTONE-LAYING CEREMONY BEGIN SUMMARY: DURING THE VISIT OF SECRETARY OF T
TAGS: OVIP, MPOL, NATO, (LEBER, GEORG), (ALEXANDER, CLIFFORD L)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbcc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/64bc309b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

